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IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An image input/output apparatus as claimed in claim 1, having input means for inputting image data of original images, and output means for outputting image data, said apparatus being connected to at least one other image input/output apparatus via a communication medium, comprising:

transmission means for transmitting the image data input by said input means and image accompanying information relating to the input image data to said at least one other image input/output apparatus;

receiving means for receiving image data and image accompanying information relating thereto from said at least one other image input/output apparatus; and

output control means for carrying out control so as to output images using said output means based on the image data and the image accompanying information received by said receiving means,

wherein the image accompanying information is indicative of whether the image data corresponding to the image accompanying information is related to a front page of an original or to a back page of the original, and

wherein said output control means adjusts an output position of an image on a recording medium based on the image accompanying information.

3-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An image input/output apparatus as claimed in claim 8, having input means for inputting image data of original images, and output means for outputting image data, said apparatus being connected to at least one other image input/output apparatus via a communication medium, comprising:

transmission means for transmitting the image data input by said input means and image accompanying information relating to the input image data to said at least one other image input/output apparatus;

receiving means for receiving image data and image accompanying information relating thereto from said at least one other image input/output apparatus; and

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output control means for carrying out control so as to output images using said output means based on the image data and the image accompanying information received by said receiving means,

wherein the image accompanying information is indicative of an image size before fine adjustment of image size is carried out, and said output control means carries out at least selection of a recording medium based on the image accompanying information, and

wherein said output means is a printer having a plurality of sheet feeding stages, and said output control means carries out selection of said sheet feeding stages, selection of a printing sheet and image rotation control based on the image accompanying information.

10-26. (*Canceled*)

27. (*Original*) An image input/output apparatus having output means for outputting image data, and being connected to at least one other image input/output apparatus via a communication medium, comprising:

management means for managing cassette information on sheet cassettes provided in said output means; and

first selection means for selecting one of the sheet cassettes for outputting image data by said output means based on the cassette information managed by said management means;

wherein, when image data received from said at least one other image input/output apparatus is to be outputted by said output means, said first selection means selects one of said sheet cassettes based on the cassette information.

28. (*Original*) An image input/output apparatus as claimed in claim 27, further comprising second selection means for selecting one of said sheet cassettes in accordance with operation input of an operator, and

wherein, if image output using one of the sheet cassettes selected by said first selection means is impossible, image output using another one of the sheet cassettes selected by said second selection means is commenced.

29. (*Original*) An image input/output apparatus as claimed in claim 28, comprising receiving means for receiving image data from said at least one image input/output apparatus, and wherein said receiving means continues reception of image data from said at least one image input/output apparatus until selection is carried out by said second selection means.

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30. (*Original*) An image input/output apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the reception of the image data is carried out page by page.

31. (*Original*) An image input/output apparatus as claimed in claim 27, further comprising warning means for displaying a warning if image output using one of the sheet cassettes selected by said first selection means is impossible.

32. (*Original*) An image input/output apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the image size of the received image data is determined based on image accompanying information sent together with the received image data.

33. (*Original*) An image input/output apparatus as claimed in claim 27, comprising input means for inputting original images.

34. (*Canceled*)

35. (*Currently Amended*) A method as claimed in claim 34, of controlling an image input/output apparatus having an input section that inputs image data of original images, and an output section that outputs image data, and being connected to at least one other image input/output apparatus via a communication medium, comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting the image data input by said input section and image accompanying information relating to the input image data to said at least one other image input/output apparatus;

a receiving step of receiving image data and image accompanying information relating thereto from said at least one other image input/output apparatus; and

an output control step of controlling so as to output images using said output section based on the image data and the image accompanying information received through said receiving step,

wherein the image accompanying information is indicative of whether the image data corresponding to the image accompanying information is related to a front page of an original or to a back page of the original, and said output control step comprises adjusting an output position of an image on a recording medium based on the image accompanying information.

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36-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 41, of controlling an image input/output apparatus having an input section that inputs image data of original images, and an output section that outputs image data, and being connected to at least one other image input/output apparatus via a communication medium, comprising:

a transmission step of transmitting the image data input by said input section and image accompanying information relating to the input image data to said at least one other image input/output apparatus;

a receiving step of receiving image data and image accompanying information relating thereto from said at least one other image input/output apparatus; and

an output control step of controlling so as to output images using said output section based on the image data and the image accompanying information received through said receiving step,

wherein the image accompanying information is indicative of an image size before fine adjustment of image size is carried out, and said output control step comprises carrying out at least selection of a recording medium based on the image accompanying information, and

wherein said output section is a printer having a plurality of sheet feeding stages, and said output control step comprises carrying out selection of said sheet feeding stages, selection of a printing sheet and image rotation control based on the image accompanying information.

43-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 51, of controlling an image input/output apparatus having a printing section that prints image data, and being connected via a communication medium to at least one image reading apparatus that input image data of original images, comprising:

a receiving step of receiving the image data of the original images from said at least one image reading apparatus;

a printing step of printing image data using said printing section; and

a printing control step of controlling printing of image data received through said receiving step, using said printing step,

wherein in said receiving step, image accompanying information relating to the image data of the original images is received, and in said printing control step, the printing using said

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printing section is controlled based on the image data and the image accompanying information received through said receiving step,

wherein the image accompanying information is indicative of whether the image data corresponding to the image accompanying information is related to a front page of an original or to a back page of the original, and said printing control step comprises adjusting a printing position of an image on a printing sheet based on the image accompanying information.

53-59. (*Canceled*)

60. (*Original*) A method of controlling an image input/output apparatus having an output section that outputs image data, and being connected to at least one image input/output apparatus via a communication medium, comprising:

a management step of managing cassette information on sheet cassettes provided in said output section; and

a first selection step of selecting one of the sheet cassettes for outputting image data by said output section based on the cassette information managed through said management step;

wherein, when image data received from said at least one image input/output apparatus is to be outputted by said output section, in said first selection step, one of said sheet cassettes is selected based on the cassette information.

61. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 60, further comprising a second selection step of selecting one of said sheet cassettes in accordance with operation input of an operator;

wherein, if image output using one of the sheet cassettes selected through said first selection step is impossible, image output using another one of the sheet cassettes selected through said second selection step is commenced.

62. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 61, comprising a receiving step of receiving image data from said at least one image input/output apparatus, and wherein in said receiving step, reception of image data from said at least one image input/output apparatus is continued until selection is carried out through said second selection step.

63. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 62, wherein the reception of the image data is carried out page by page.

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64. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 60, further comprising a warning step of displaying a warning if image output using one of the sheet cassettes selected through said first selection means is impossible.

65. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 60, wherein the image size of the received image data is determined based on image accompanying information sent together with the received image data.

66. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 60, comprising an input step of inputting original images.

67-70. (*Canceled*)

71. (*Original*) An image input/output system in which a plurality of image input/output apparatuses having output means for outputting image data are connected together via a communication medium, wherein:

at least one of said image input/output apparatuses comprises:
management means for managing cassette information on sheet cassettes provided in said output means; and
first selection means for selecting one of the sheet cassettes for outputting image data by said output means based on the cassette information managed by said management means; and

wherein, when image data received from said at least one other image input/output apparatus is to be outputted by said output means, said first selection means selects one of said sheet cassettes based on the cassette information.

72. (*Original*) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program code that implements a method of controlling an image input/output apparatus having an input section that inputs image data of original images, and an output section that outputs image data, and being connected to at least one other image input/output apparatus via a communication medium, said program code comprising:

a transmission code for transmitting image data input by said input section and image accompanying information relating to said input image data to said at least one other image input/output apparatus;

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a receiving code for receiving image data and image accompanying information relating thereto from said at least one other image input/output apparatus; and

an output control code for controlling so as to output images using said output section based on the image data and the image accompanying information received through said receiving code.

73-74. (Canceled)

75. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program code that implements a method of controlling an image input/output apparatus connected to at least one image output apparatus via a communication medium, said program code comprising:

a converting code for converting input image data into a TIFF file; and
transmission code for transmitting the TIFF file converted through said converting code to said at least one image output apparatus;

wherein said transmission code implements attaching control information for said at least one image output apparatus to carry out image output of said image data to a free area in a header of the TIFF file, and transmission of the control information.

76-77. (Canceled)

78. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program code that implements a method of controlling an image input/output apparatus having an output section that outputs image data and being connected to at least one other image input/output apparatus via a communication medium, said program code comprising:

a management code for managing cassette information on sheet cassettes provided in said output section; and

a first selection code for selecting one of the sheet cassettes for outputting image data using said output section based on the cassette information managed through said management code;

wherein, when image data received from said at least one other image input/output apparatus is to be outputted by said output section, said first selection code implements selection of one of the sheet cassettes based on the cassette information.